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IRISH FOLDERS

CAN IRELAND PAY HER WAY?

IS SHE STRONG ENOUGH TO SET UP AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION?

These questions can be best answered by comparing Ireland with the small nations of Europe that prospered in Freedom.

See how Ireland holds her own in size:—

	Area in square miles.
Belgium	11,373.
Holland	12,582.
Denmark	15,582.
Switzerland	15,976.
Ireland	32,586.

Countries about the same size as Ireland are:—Serbia, 33,891 square miles; Portugal, 35,490; Greece, 41,933; Bulgaria, 43,305.

In population also she is well to the fore, as these figures show:—

Norway	2,391,782
Denmark	2,921,362
Switzerland	3,880,500
Ireland	4,390,219

The following are the figures for countries whose population in each case is about equal to that of Ireland:—Serbia, 4,615,567; Bulgaria, 4,337,516; Greece, 4,821,300.

Ireland is not only the country with the highest birth-rate in Europe (with one exception), but it is the only country in Europe where the birth-rate is increasing. The following Table was issued by the Statistical Department of the Bavarian Government in 1910. (The figures are those of births per each 1,000 married women between the ages of 15 and 50):—

THE BIRTH-RATE.

Legitimate Births (per 1,000 Women).

	Decade 1876-85	Decade 1886-95	Decade 1896-05
German Empire	268	258	243
Prussia	273	265	250
Bavaria	276	263	259
Saxony	267	250	216
Wurttemberg	288	259	262
Baden	266	248	251
Austria	246	250	—
Hungary	234	224	—
Italy	248	249	252
Switzerland	239	230	—
France	167	150	134
England and Wales ...	250	229	203
Scotland	271	255	235
Ireland	**250**	**245**	**264**
Belgium	264	236	213
Holland	293	286	272
Denmark	244	235	217
Sweden	240	231	—
Norway	262	259	—
Portugal	—	235	—
Finland	259	246	—
Servia	—	237	—

In most cases these small nations do their business better than the big nations. What does it cost them? Here are their revenue figures for 1913:—

Switzerland ...	£3,105,000
Serbia	£5,231,000
Bulgaria	£5,765,000
Greece	£6,908,000
Denmark	£7,116,000
Norway	£9,776,000

Ireland in the same year paid **£12,505,000** for English domination. Last year (1918-19) Dublin Castle rule cost Ireland £35,205,000, and this year (1919-20), £45,000,000.

All the Small Powers mentioned keep their armies, and three of them have fleets as well. It is cheaper, therefore, to be free than in slavery.

Liberty costs only 20/- in Switzerland, 23/- in Serbia, 26/- in Bulgaria, 29/- in Greece, 58/- in Portugal, 61/- in Sweden, 82/- in Norway, while in Ireland subjection and corruption cost us **209/-** per head.

England tries to convey to the world that Ireland is a burden on her hands. The fact is that, with the exception of the American market, the Irish market is the most valuable one she has in the world, because she has a monopoly here. In the last normal trade year (1914) the following (British Official Return) was the value of the trade between Great Britain and

	£		£
Portugal	6,000,000	Russia	32,000,000
Austro-Hungary .	7,000,000	Holland	38,000,000
Japan	12,500,000	France	63,000,000
Spain	21,000,000	Germany	70,000,000
Italy	21,000,000	**Ireland**	**135,000,000**
Belgium	24,000,000	United States ...	173,000,000

In other words, England finds a better customer in Ireland than she does in France and Germany combined, or in Portugal, Austria-Hungary, Japan, Spain, Italy, Belgium and Holland combined.

In point of trade Ireland beats all the other small nations hollow. Here are the figures for 1914, taken from the Statesman's Year Book:—

Greece ...	... £11,691,000
Bulgaria ...	... £15,837,000
Portugal ...	... £22,043,000
Norway ...	... £32,400,000
Rumania ...	... £50,428,000
Sweden ...	... £82,555,000
Denmark ...	... £92,373,000

while Ireland's trade for the same year was **£151,305,784 !**

Judged by any standard, Ireland is admirably fitted for Freedom. She is large enough, populous enough, rich enough. For the money we paid last year we could run the entire Government business of five free European countries—Denmark, Greece, Bulgaria, Switzerland, and Norway—paying for all their police, soldiers, ships, and guns.

Is not Ireland fooled and robbed long enough?

THE HOUR FOR FREEDOM AND THE IRISH REPUBLIC HAS STRUCK !

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